#000000: ULTRA BLACK
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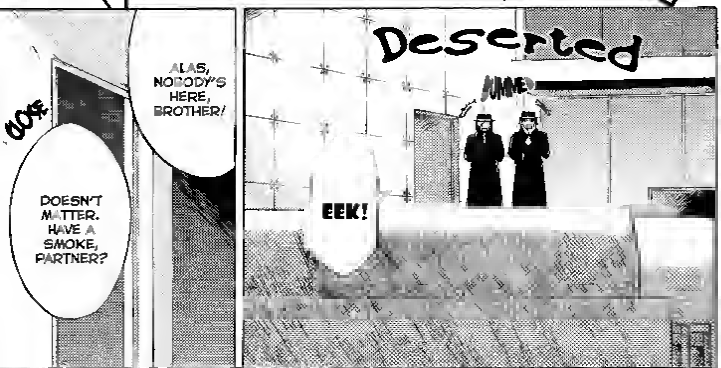
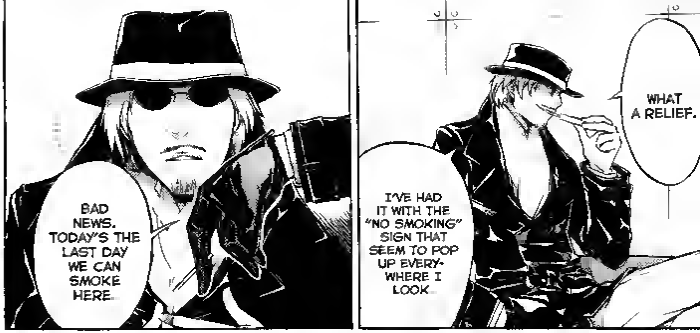
Cell 02: Continuation of a Dream Part 2




BAD NEWS. TODAY'S THE LAST DAY WE CAN SMOKE HERE.
I'VE HAD IT WITH THE "NO SMOKING" SIGN THAT SEEM TO POP UP EVERY-WHERE I LOOK.
WHAT A RELIEF.

WHAT'S WITH THE FOOT? HMM?
RUB
RUB
YOU HEAR ME?
A SMOKING ENVIRONMENT IS NO GOOD FOR A KID WHO IS GROWING, RIGHT?

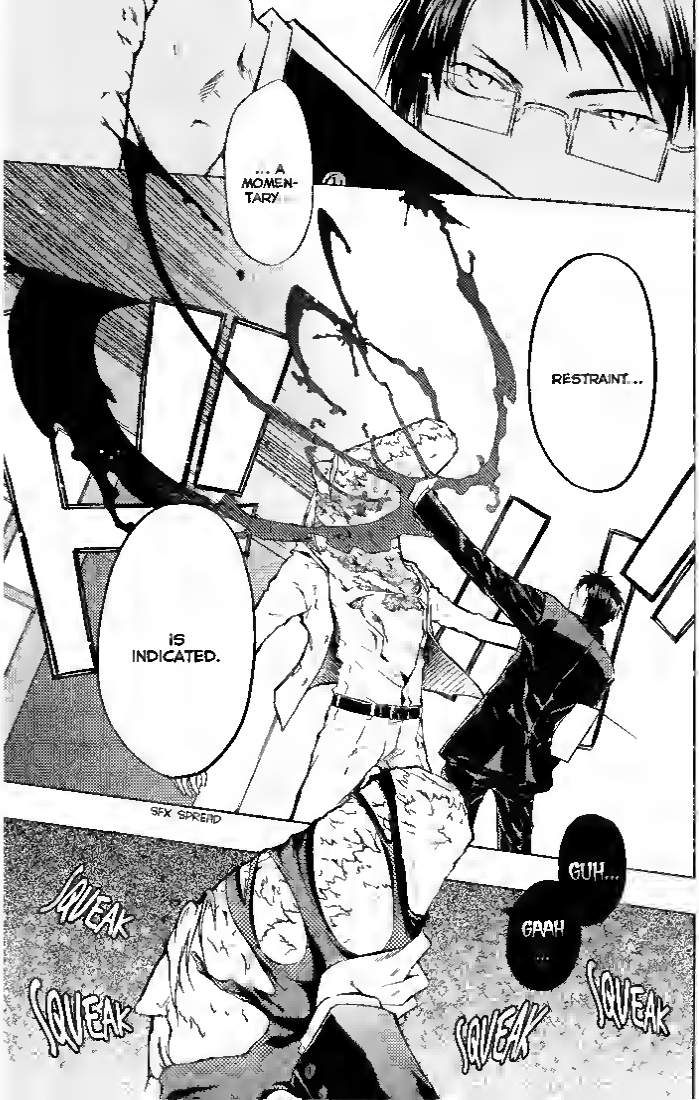
RIGHT ON. DON'T FORGET IT.
WE'RE FINALLY MEETING THAT KID, HUH?
I SEE. TODAY'S THE DAY...

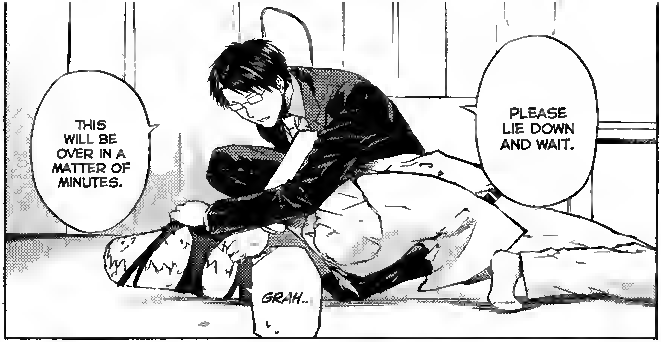
Cell 02: Continuation of a Dream Part 2

DEAR DADDY LONG LEGS,
THE PRESENT SITUATION...
LEAVES ME STUMPED FOR WORDS
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
HE LOOKS LIKE A MASCOT CAN YOU DO THE CALL-BACK...

NEI...?
OUI.
LEFT SIDE.
GRR...
R...
RAAAAAH!

SFX GROWL
PLEASE BE INFORMED, SIR
SFX GRAB
SFX GRAB
THAT IN ORDER FOR US TO CONDUCT THE CALL-BACK SAFELY...


...A MOMENTARY
RESTRAINT...
IS INDICATED.
SFX: SPREAD
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
GUH...
GRAH...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK


PLEASE LIE DOWN AND WAIT.
THIS WILL BE OVER IN A MATTER OF MINUTES.
GRAH..

LEFT SIDE!
MMM?

DUMBFOUNDED
NEI.
YAY! NOW WE CAN GO HOME!

RESTO-RATION CONFIRMED CALL-BACK COMPLE-TED.
GRR
GRR
LEFT BREAST POCKET! IS THIS IT?

#000000 1
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!
THANK YOU FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH US.
WHAT WAS WHAT?
ring ring ring
WELL—
OH, PHONE CALL!

stalk
stalk
stalk
AAGH!!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
HELLO? TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH! JEEEEZ!

IMPORTANT!
N-N-NOTHING...

...
SANE-TORA-KUN! THE BOSS IS HOME!

BOSS?

LET'S GO HOME!
A.K.A. YOUR BENE-FACTOR.
MY DADDY LONG LEGS..
WHOSE NAME AND SEX AND AGE I DON'T KNOW..
FOR NOW, I WILL DO ALL I CAN TO FORGET ABOUT TODAY'S INCIDENT!
TRUMP TRUMP TRUMP
WELCOME HOME!!

I BROUGHT SANETORA-KUN ALONG!
OH! WELCOME HOME TO YOU, TOO.
HUH?
Oh! Welcome!
WHY ARE THERE TWO OF THEM?
WE JUST GOT BACK OURSELVES. LOOK AT YOUR FACE! GOOD AFTER-NOON!
OLD FART, IT'S FREAKING EVENING. NICE TO MEET YOU. GOOD EVENING!
UH.. UM...

BOW
This one!
THANK YOU...
... FOR TAKING ME IN!
HELLO...
I'M FUKI SANE-TORA.

HEY!
For free
SNAP
Puff
NOT AT ALL SO I'M THE BOSS NOW?

HEY...
Ha ha ha ha ha
HAND OVER ALL THE DOCUMENTS, SHIDOU I'M THE BOSS NOW.
Ha ha ha ha ha

ROAR
MORON!!
IT'S ME! ME!
I AM YOUR SPON-SOR!
DON'T GET THE SHADY OLD FART AND ME MIXED UP!
NO WAY...

HOW... HOW DARE YOU! I WAS PREPARED FOR ANY REACTION BUT THIS!! WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE'S A MISTAKE?!
WHAT?!
IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE! THERE'S DEFINITELY A MISTAKE!
FLOMP
WHOA!
STOP RIGHT THERE! SANE-TORA-KUN?
I'VE BEEN PROVIDED FOR FOR 11 YEARS!
WELL... YOU'RE TOO YOUNG!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
I'm young, am I? Ah ha ha ha ha!
I see, I see! No wonder! Don t scare me!
PAT
PAT

WOULD A PERSON OF DUBIOUS BACKGROUND BE ALLOWED CUSTODY OF A CHILD,
HMM?
ALL CLEAR? GOOD! SIT DOWN, PEOPLE!
tun?
THEY'RE GETTING ALONG ALREADY!
THEY ARE?
HIS PUSHINESS IS BEYOND ME

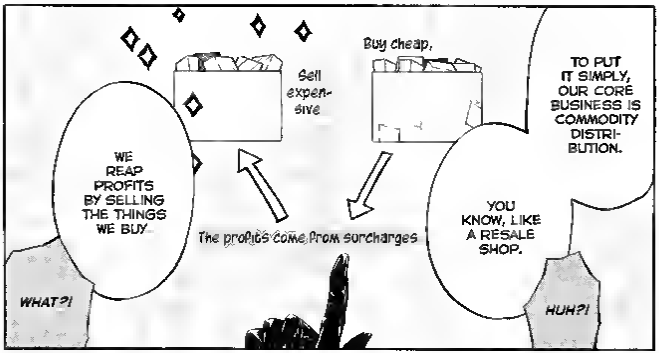
IS THIS SOME SORT OF AN INTER-VIEW?
NO, NO! HE DOESN'T HATE ME OR ANYTHING...
Thump
Thump
CALM DOWN AND—
UM...
SCREECH
YOU SAID YOU'D GO MEET SANETORA-KUN BEFORE GOING OFF ON YOUR BUSINESS TRIP! YOU DIDN'T DID YOU!?
LET'S JUST GET THE INTROS OVER WITH.
'KAY...
thrm
Hohzi
NEI, HOW MUCH DID YOU TELL HIM?
ACK! BOSS!
I JUST REMEM-BERED!

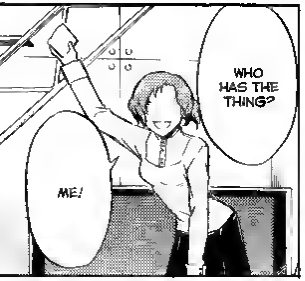
THE NAME'S SHIDOU KANAE.
I'M THE UBER AWESOME PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMPANY.
JANK
ANSWER ME.
Y-YES, BOSS!
CALL ME BOSS.
HUH?
I'M THE VICE PRESIDENT, SHIBA EISHUU.
NICE TO MEET YOU, SANETORA-KUN.

I ASSUME YOU ALREADY KNOW THE OTHER TWO,
SEEING THAT YOU WERE WITH THEM.
HE SEEMS LIKE A NICE PERSON!
ME, POPS, AND NE! ..
ARE THE FULL-TIMERS
I'M A STUDENT I ONLY WORK PART-TIME. AFTER SCHOOL AND ON HOLIDAYS.
WHAT ABOUT OUSAKA-SAN?
YOU TWO ARE ONLY THREE YEARS APART.
HE'S A SUPPLEMENTARY WORKER, SO THAT PUTS HIM WAY BELOW ME

ENOUGH OF THIS DIGNITY BUSINESS. WITH THE NEW KID JOINING US TODAY, WE'RE NOW A FIVE-MEMBERED TEAM.
Point
AH HA?!
WH-WH-WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT ME BEING IN HIGH SCHOOL?!
blush

OUR COMPANY'S NAME...
IS ROUGH WORKERS, LTD. CO.
I'M IN?!
SINCE WHEN?!


Buy cheap.
Sell expen-sive
The profits come from surcharges
WE REAP PROFITS BY SELLING THE THINGS WE BUY.
WHAT?!
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, OUR CORE BUSINESS IS COMMODITY DISTRI-BUTION.
YOU KNOW, LIKE A RESALE SHOP.
HUH?!


WHO HAS THE THING?
ME!

ROAR
Yep
And I'm a Stammer
IT SOUNDS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I SAW EARLIER.
OH, YOU SAW?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
SANE-TORA,

PLATED WITH GOLD
YOU CAN FIND IT IN ANY RETAIL STORE FOR A LOW PRICE.
UM, IS IT A CLIP?
YES, A TIE CLIP.
THE CREATURE YOU SAW...
WELL, THIS CLIP WAS THE TRIGGER.

AMONG THE OBJECTS WE COME INTO CONTACT WITH EVERY DAY.
THERE ARE A PRECIOUS FEW THAT POSSESS UNIQUE PROPERTIES.
BUT...
NOT EVERYBODY WHO HOLDS IT IS AFFECTED.
THIS ONE HERE HAS NO EFFECT ON ME.
GIVE ME YOUR HAND
PROBABLY HARMLESS TO YOU, TOO.
toss
PROBABLY?!

UM... SO...
WHAT ABOUT THE MAN?
THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ATTUNED TO THESE THINGS ARE SUSCEP-TIBLE.
YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE TREASURE CHEAP TRINKETS?
WHAT?
THESE THINGS WITH THE SPECIAL PROPERTIES DON'T REPRESENT THEIR VALUE, EITHER, AND THEY APPEAL TO PEOPLE'S HEARTS
I'M CURIOUS.
EXPENSIVE OR CHEAP, LOCAL OR FOREIGN .. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
STRICTLY SPEAKING, THERE ARE ALSO TYPES THAT DON'T MANIFEST.

ANY QUESTIONS SO FAR?
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
Why!?
HMM?
THE PROPERTIES...
REFER TO WHAT YOU SAW TODAY.
YOU'VE ACTUALLY BEEN LISTENING. AWW, TOO BAD.
UM... WHAT EXACTLY ARE THE PROPERTIES?

©SFX THUNK

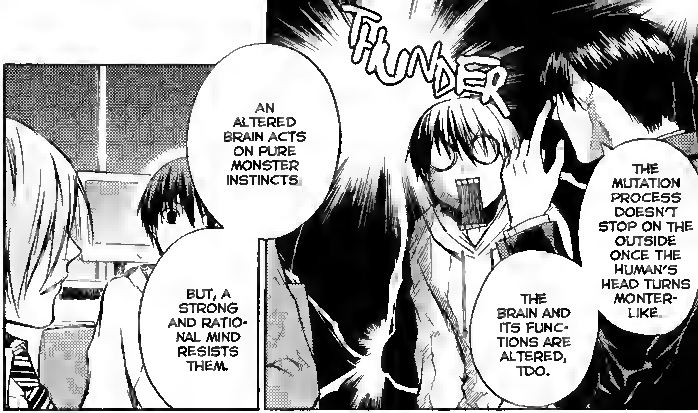
THEY COULD BE A RADICAL SUBSTANCE...
OR A TRANS-MOGRIFYING POWER...
THAT CONSUMES A HUMAN...
IN ULTRA BLACK...
THE IMPACT ON THE HUMAN COULD BE PARTIAL OR WHOLE.
clench
THE MUTATIVE ABILITY*.

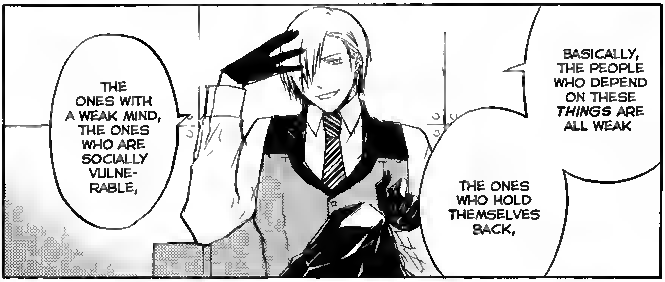
*In Japanese this is "mental" ability

YOU DO KNOW WHAT "TRANSMO-GRIFYING" MEANS, DON'T YOU?
NOT REALLY.
...

RESERVE YOUR KIDDY ANTICS FOR A MORE MATURE AUDIENCE.
PUU HA HA HA
WORK ON YOUR VOCAB, STUPID BRAT!!

YES.
A MUTATED HAND MAY SOMETIMES DEVOUR PEOPLE.
DAZE
UM..
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHAT YOU SAW?
SCARY, I GUESS I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO EAT ME, OR SOME-THING


THUNDER
AN ALTERED BRAIN ACTS ON PURE MONSTER INSTINCTS.
BUT, A STRONG AND RATIONAL MIND RESISTS THEM.
THE MUTATION PROCESS DOESN'T STOP ON THE OUTSIDE ONCE THE HUMAN'S HEAD TURNS MONTER-LIKE.
THE BRAIN AND ITS FUNCTIONS ARE ALTERED, TOO.


BASICALLY, THE PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON THESE *THINGS* ARE ALL WEAK
THE ONES WHO HOLD THEMSELVES BACK,
THE ONES WITH A WEAK MIND, THE ONES WHO ARE SOCIALLY VULNERABLE,

INCLUDING KIDS.

ESCUSE ME!!
WE USE ALL MEANS NECESSARY TO RETRIEVE IT.
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, BEFORE THE OBJECT IN QUESTION FALLS INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S HANDS
THOSE WHO RELENTLESSLY SEEK POWER...
LOSE THEIR HEADS OVER IT INSTEAD.

SAY...

WHAT IF NOTHING HAPPENS TO THE OWNER?
FUKI?

. . . YOU OWN SOMETHING LIKE IT?
blank
If you don't mind it even.

MOST OF THE TIME, THOUGH, WE'RE JUST AN AVERAGE RESELLER COMPANY
YOU SEE, WE'RE A SUPER SMALL COMPANY!
stare
OF-OF COURSE NOT!
I DON'T OWN ANYTHING LIKE THAT, NOT AT ALL!
HMM.
thump
thump
thump
thump

STARTING TODAY, THIS RESALE SHOP WITH THE OCCASIONAL CALLBACK SERVICE WILL BE YOUR HOME
I GUESS THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR NOW.
THAT OK WITH YOU?
YEAH
GOOD

<SFX: BAM>
MOVING ON, LET'S DISCUSS SANETORA'S WELCOMING PARTY!
WHEE, FOOD!

SANETORA-KUN SAID HE'D LIKE TO HAVE MEAT FOR DINNER!
He did not.
flop
DID HE? I KNOW OF A PLACE THAT SERVES YAKINIKU WHERE THE MEAT GETS SUCKIER WITH EACH ORDER I CAN TAKE YOU THERE.
DON'T BE STINGY, BOSS! TIMES LIKE THIS CALL FOR A BIGGER, BETTER MEAL!
IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS THAT WE SHOULD PICK A LESS FORMAL EATERY, RIGHT?

EXCUSE ME.
I'M HEADING OFF TO BED.
I HAVE TO AGREE WITH YOU, BUT I SAY WE GO FOR JINGISUKAN!
Agree? Not.
AW, COME ON!
HAVE DINNER WITH US!
TAP TAP TAP
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M AWFULLY SLEEPY.
ALREADY? WHAT ABOUT DINNER?
bow
GOOD NIGHT.
close